

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060506

41

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 USIA-15 RSC-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

----- 103302

R 262225Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 060506

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 26 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. PL NEGOTIATOR AT VIENTIANE SAYS HE AND SOUVANNA
AGREE ON DETAILS OF COALITION FORMATION, AND PL
GEN. SECY. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WILL FLY TO VIENTIANE
FROM HANOI WED. FOR FINAL DISCUSSIONS WITH RLG ON
COALITION MAKEUP. ONE RESULT WILL BE RELEASE OF
AMCIT EMMET KAY, SINCE PL AGREED TO LET HIM GO WITHIN
60 DAYS OF COALITION FORMATION (UPI, BALTO N-A 3/25).
SOUVANNA BELIEVES PHOUMI'S ARRIVAL AT VIENTIANE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060506

WILL LEAD TO AGREEMENT ON FINAL DETAILS OF NEW GOVT.

AND PROPOSED JOINT POLITICAL COUNCIL (AP, NYDN).
SOUVANNA SAYS THAT HE EXPECTS TO MEET SOUPHANOUVONG
AT LUANG PRABANG BY MONTH'S END TO COMPLETE PLANS
FOR COALITION (CSM; AP, NYDN).

2. GKR OFFICERS REPORT 173 REBELS KIA IN 48 HOURS
OF HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND OUDONG (WP; AP, BALTO N-
A 3/25). PP MIL SOURCES SAY FANK SUFFERS HEAVY
CASUALTIES IN DRIVE TO RETAKE OUDONG. KHMER CAMERAMAN
FOR CBS REPORTED WIA WHILE COVERING FIGHTING (UPI,
NYT). MIL SOURCES SAY REBELS FORCE FANK TO WITHDRAW
FROM POSITIONS 7 MILES SW OF PP NEAR ROUTE 4.

FIGHTING AT KAMPOT CONTINUES (REUTER, NYT).

3. RADIO HAVANA SAYS PHAM VAN DONG AND CASTRO FLEW
TO SANTIAGO DE CUBA YESTERDAY (AP, SUN).

4. GVN SAYS IT BROKE UP SMUGGLING RING THAT BROUGHT
FRENCH LIQUOR AND US CIGARETTES TO SAIGON IN MIL
BOAT AND TRUCKS, ARRESTED 4 POLICE AND 37 MIL OFFICERS
(AP, BALTO N-A 3/25). GVN DEPUTY DEFMIN CALLS NEWS
CONFERENCE TO DENY LOCAL PRESS STORY THAT "VIPS
OR GENERALS" WERE IN SMUGGLING OPERATION
SAYS INTER-
MINISTERIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE FOUND "NO EVIDENCE"
OF HIGH-RANKING INVOLVEMENT (AP, NYT).

5. MCCOMBS (WP) FROM DELTA NEAR KHMER BORDER FINDS
QUIET IN WHAT WAS ONCE "CRAZY, SAVAGE" WORLD OF
CLASHES WITH NVA. FOUR YEARS AGO FIGHTING WAS HEAVY
AS US ADVISORY TEAM WORKED WITH LOCAL ETHNIC KHMER
SOLDIERS TO BLOCK NVA INFILTRATION ROUTE INTO DELTA
FROM CAMBODIA. MCCOMBS MEETS OLD FRIEND CHAU REAPS,
FORMER ANTI-DIEM AND ANTI-VC GUERRILLA WHO BECAME
ARVN OFFICER IN ETHNIC KHMER UNIT. REAPS SAYS LAST
HEAVY FIGHTING IN AREA WAS AROUND C-F TIME, NOW
NVA "FOR UNKNOWN REASONS" NO LONGER USE INFILTRATION
ROUTE HEAVILY. MCCOMBS OPINES THAT IT MAY HAVE
SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE "STRAINED RELATIONS" BETWEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 060506

VIETS AND KHMERS ACROSS THE BORDER, ADDS THAT INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS IN SAIGON INDICATE THAT MORE INFILTRATION
INTO DELTA TAKES PLACE BY SEA AND IN AREAS FAR TO
NE AND CLOSER TO SAIGON. REAPS MISSES US ADVISORS
WHO WERE ALWAYS "PLEASANT WITH THE PEOPLE" AND COULD
CALL IN AIR STRIKES, ARTILLERY AND CHOPPERS. NOW
SUPPORT IS HARD TO GET. REAPS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
GO TO US HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER SURGERY ON SERIOUS

FACE WOUND SUFFERED IN 1970. HE HAD TURNED DOWN
EARLIER OFFER BECAUSE OF HEAVY ACTION.

6. CLARITY (NYT) GIVES SERIES OF VIGNETTES ON CURRENT
SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. IN SAIGON THERE IS NO INCOMING
ARTILLERY FIRE; ICCS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES C-F IMPLEMENTA-
TION WITH AIDE WHO SAYS "UNFORTUNATELY, HUMANITARIAN
CONCERNS ALWAYS COME LAST IN THESE MATTERS"; PROSTITUTE
HOPES GIS COME BACK SOON BECAUSE "RUSSIANS AND CHINESE
ARE HELPING THE VC" WHO "DO WRONG ALL THE TIME";
PRO-WESTERN DIPLOMAT QUOTES HIGH GVN OFFICIAL THAT
PEOPLE "THRIVED, ECONOMICALLY" IN THE WAR. IN NHA
TRANG AN EDUCATED VIET SAYS "WE WERE BORN TO KILL
EACH OTHER". IN DELTA YOUNG WOMAN WHO LOST ARM

IN US AIR RAID IS UNMARRIAGEABLE DESPITE ARTIFICIAL
LIMB, LIVES IN ORPHANAGE AND ADOPTS INFANT GIRL.
IN PP THERE IS INCOMING AND OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE
AND "INSURGENTS" FIGHT CLOSE TO CITY; ON ROUTE 4
"PROFESSIONAL NEUTRALISM CAN BE HARD TO SUSTAIN"
AS US-MADE PLANES FORCE REBELS TO STOP FIRING AND
HIDE; DANGER RECEDES, AND REPORTER HOPES QUIET PREVAILS
UNTIL HE GETS AWAY. YOUNG SOLDIER SAYS HE WILL
KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL "PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES" TELL
HIM TO STOP. IN LAOS THERE IS VIRTUAL PEACE AND
US OFFICIAL ON TOUR SAYS "WE DIDN'T WIN THE WAR",
WHILE OTHER US OFFICIALS CRITICIZE LATE DR. DOOLEY
AS "PUBLIC RELATIONS-CONSCIOUS FAKER" WHO KNOCKED
USG WHILE ACCEPTING FEDERAL MONEY. BANGKOK IS "PERHAPS
THE SEX CAPITAL OF SEA" SINCE THAI ATTITUDES ON
THE SUBJECT DIFFER FROM THE REST OF THE AREA AND
"POSSIBLY THE REST OF THE WORLD"; POLITICIANS WORRY
ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG PROSTITUTES BROUGHT ON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 060506

BY ENERGY CRISIS, AND THAIS SAY THAT HOMOSEXUALS
IN HIGH PLACES CAN'T BE BLACKMAILED BECAUSE "NO
ONE CARES THAT MUCH." CLARITY MENTIONS LOCAL RACISM
IN AREA: VIETS, LAOTIANS, KHMERS AND THAIS SEE ETHNIC
CHINESE AS CLANNISH, BRIBING OFFICIALS, CONTROLLING
TOO MUCH COMMERCE AND KEEPING THEIR SONS OUT OF
ARMY; LAOTIANS AND KHMERS CONSIDER VIETS AS "NOT
MUCH BETTER THAN THE CHINESE"; LAOTIANS COMPLAIN
THAT THAIS TRY TO DOMINATE THEM ECONOMICALLY WHILE
JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN DOMINATE THAILAND.

CHINA

7. IN SPEECH COINCIDING WITH KISSINGER'S MOSCOW VISIT,
AT BANQUET WELCOMING NYERERE, CHOU SAID SUNDAY NIGHT

THERE CAN BE NO REAL SOVIET-US DETENTE BECAUSE "IN ACTUALITY THEY ARE ENGAGED IN AN INTENSIVE RIVALRY" ROOTED IN STRUGGLE "TO SEIZE WORLD HEGEMONY." CHOU DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF HIS REMARKS TO SOVIET-US RELATIONS, WITHOUT MENTIONING EITHER NATION BY NAME OR REFERRING TO HAK'S MOSCOW TRIP. HK ANALYSTS FOUND SPEECH MARKED BY TWO UNUSUAL FEATURES: IT WAS MORE MILITANT THAN USUAL, DWELLING MORE ON THEME OF VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE, AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO MASS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY IN CHINA (UPI, BALTO N-A, 3/25).

8. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND (3/25) REPORTS SOME HK ANALYSTS CONCLUDE THAT TENSIONS ALONG SINO-SOVIET BORDER ARE

AT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1969 USSURI RIVER CLASHES. CHINESE APPARENTLY HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE "HARD LINE" ON INCIDENT INVOLVING SOVIET HELICOPTER CAPTURED ON CHINESE TERRITORY. HK ANALYSTS CAUTION AGAINST ANY RASH PREDICTIONS OF SERIOUS SINO-SOVIET BORDER CONFRONTATION, BUT SAY INTELLIGENCE SOURCES HAVE DETECTED OTHER SIGNS OF GROWING BORDER TENSION IN RECENT MONTHS.

9. FROM PEKING, JOHN BURNS REPORTS FRAGMENT OF ANCIENT CONFUCIAN MANUSCRIPT, WHICH HAD BEEN IN PRC UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 060506

EXHIBIT IN ENGLAND, WILL BE MISSING WHEN EXHIBIT OPENS IN TORONTO THIS SUMMER AND LATER MOVES TO US. "POWERS THAT BE IN PEKING HAVE DECIDED TO PURGE HIM FROM THE DISPLAY" (CSM).

10. GIMO MAKES RARE OFFICIAL APPEARANCE, ATTENDING, WITH WIFE, FAREWELL DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY (UPI, NYT). AP TAIPEI SAYS RECEPTION "WAS THEREFORE AN INDICATION" OF GRC'S "GOOD OPINION" OF MCCONAUGHY, WHO HAS OVERSEEN US-ROC RELATIONS DURING "TOUCHY PERIOD" DURI
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE060506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740066-0225
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamjl.tel
Line Count: 207
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 26 EA PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005